

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 12160 142213Z
ACTION NODS-00

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O P 142135Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 379
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 12160

EXDIS: DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOF, UK, GT, BH
SUBJECT: BELIZE: VIEWS OF PRESIDENT AND FONMIN

REF: KINGSTON 7450

1. DURING DECEMBER 13 MEETING WITH SENATOR MCGOVERN,
FONMIN CONSALVI REFERRING TO KINGSTON MEETING SAID
PARTICIPANTS WERE OPPOSED TO ANY FORMULA IN WHICH
BELIZE WAS NOT FULLY CONSULTED. IN ADDITION, THERE
WAS IN PRINCIPLE STRONG SENTIMENT AMONG THE CARIBBEAN
STATES AGAINST ANY TERRITORIAL CONCESSION AS A
PRE-CONDITION, BUT A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT IT IF
BELIZE AGREED. CONSALVI SAID PRICE MADE AN EMOTIONAL
SPEECH DECLARING THAT A SETTLEMENT ARRIVED AT BY THE
UK AND GUATEMALA WITHOUT HIS ASSENT WOULD NOT BIND
BELIZE. HE WENT ON TO ACCUSE THE USG OF INDIRECTLY
BRINGING PRESSURE ON BELIZE TO MAKE TERRITORIAL
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CONCESSIONS TO GUATEMALA. CONSALVI SAID VENEZUELA
AGREED WITH THE GENERAL PROPOSITION THAT ANY SETTLE-
MENT MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO BELIZE. HE SAID, HOWEVER,
THAT HE TOLD PRICE PRIVATELY THAT VENEZUELA IS
CONVINCED THAT PRICE WILL HAVE TO MAKE AT LEAST A
TOKEN TERRITORIAL CONCESSION TO GUATEMALA TO REACH
A SOLUTION. AS A COMPENSATION TO BELIZE, VENEZUELA

WOULD SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A JOINT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE AREA. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY SENATOR MCGOVERN, CONSALVI SAID HE BELIEVED MEXICO WOULD GO ALONG WITH ANY SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER PARTIES.

2. IN A LATER MEETING WITH THE SENATOR, PRESIDENT PEREZ REFERRED TO PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S VISIT TO CARACAS THAT SAME VENING. HE SAID VENEZUELANS WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH MANELY FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON MEETING ON CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER MATTERS, AND WOULD ALSO USE THE OCASSION TO TRY TO PERSUADE HIM TO CONVINCE PRICE OF THE NECESSITY OF MAKING A TERRITORIAL CONCESSION AS PART OF A SETTLEMENT. AT END OF MEETING, THE PRESIDENT DREW THE CHARGE ASIDE AND ASKED HIM TO ASSURE WASHINGTON THAT HE HAS NOT FORGOTTEN HIS PROMISE TO THE SECRETARY TO LEND HIS ASSISTANCE TO ACHIEVING A SOLUTION. TO THAT END, HE WAS NOT ONLY GOING TO TRY TO ENLIST MANLEY'S SUPPORT, BUT HE HAD ALSO INVITED PRICE TO COME TO CARACAS IN EARLY JANUARY. HE EXPECTED PRICE WOULD ACCEPT THE INVITIATION WHICH WOULD GIVE THE VENEZUELANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE HIM TOWARD ACCEPTING THE PROPOSED TERMS OF THE UK-GUATEMALA SETTLEMENT.

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